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efficiency bar in the districts of South Kanara, Malabar, Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Salem who had been exempted permanently from 1913 onwards from the operation of article 1 of the Public Service Notification with the privilege of appearing for all special tests with a view to qualify for higher service but in whose cases the privilege of higher promotion has been barred recently within the last two years ; and

(ii) to state

(*a*) whether there are cases of clerks still in service who have passed the efficiency bar and are still prevented from rising higher than the present lower grade on account of the recent orders cancelling the privilege which they had before ;

(*b*) whether there are any statutory orders and rules issued by the Secretary of State to the Imperial and Local Governments not to cancel any privileges already granted by those Governments, and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place them before the Council ;

(*c*) under what circumstances and under what orders the privileges aforesaid once permanently granted were cancelled ; and

(*d*) how many and which of these clerks have passed the special tests in the hope of bettering their prospects and which of them have suffered on account of the set-back by cancellation of their privileges ?

A.—(i) & (ii) (*d*) The hon. Member has based his questions on some misapprehension. Prior to the recent introduction of the incremental scales of pay there was no efficiency bar. Promotion was by selection from grade to grade. After the introduction of the incremental scales and the prescription of an efficiency bar, there has been no case where a clerk permitted to pass the efficiency bar has been denied further progress in the incremental scale applicable to his case.

(ii) (*a*) & (*c*) The reference to "the privilege that they had before" is not understood. Clerks who have received special exemption to rise to the top of the lower incremental scale must obtain a further exemption before they can be promoted to a post on a higher incremental scale.

(*b*) It is a condition of the rules delegating to Local Governments power to frame rules regarding conditions of service, pay, allowances and pensions of provincial and subordinate services that the rights of persons already in the service should not be affected. This does not give any subordinate, least of all an unqualified subordinate, any right of promotion.

Reforms

Submission of a further memorandum to the Simon Commission by the Madras Government.

* 1159 *Q.*—MR. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Madras Government intend submitting a further memorandum to the Simon Commission on the nature and extent of future political reforms in the province ;

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(*b*) whether it is proposed to send a joint memorandum of the two halves of the Government or separate memoranda for the Reserved and Transferred halves respectively; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to place the memorandum or memoranda on the table of the Council; if so, when; and if not, why not?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) No decision has been come to on the matter as yet.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Since the date of the receipt of this answer, which I see is 13th December 1928, may I know if the Government can throw further light on this matter?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The answer to (*a*) and (b) remains the same. As regards (*c*) I can say that having regard to the time available and the matter having been considered, if any memorandum is sent it will not be laid on the table by this Government for the reason that it is a memorandum addressed to the Commission and it is for them to publish it if they wish."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With regard to (*b*), have the Government come to any conclusion as to whether the memorandum is to be two separate memoranda, one on behalf of the Reserved half and one on behalf of the Transferred half of the Government, or whether there is going to be a joint memorandum?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I have just said that the answer to (*a*) and (b) remains as on paper."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know approximately the time when the Government expect to be in a position to come to a decision on these two matters?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I cannot undertake to say, Sir?"

Staff Selection Board

Appointment of officials and non-officials as members of the Staff Selection Board.

* 1160 *Q.*—Mr. J A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to place before the Council a statement showing the officials and non-officials appointed as members of the Staff Selection Board; and

(ii) to state

(*a*) whether any non-officials are appointed and if so, how long they are to hold the appointment; and

(*b*) whether any Member of the Legislative Council has been appointed to hold the post and, if so, on what grounds?

A.—(i) The members of the Staff Selection Board are—

(1) *Officials.*

1. The Chief Secretary to Government.
2. The Surgeon-General.
3. The Director of Public Instruction.